## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A network device, comprising:
  - a port to allow the device to communicate with a called endpoint;
  - a processor to:

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- send a call request message associated with a call to the called endpoint; and indicate a desire to delay call establishment until a delay point is reached.
  - 2. The network device of claim 1, the processor further to receive a notification that a delay point has been reached.
  - 3. The network device of claim 1, the processor further to determine if the call is to be established and, if the call is to be established, notify the called endpoint.
  - 4. The network device of claim 1, the network device comprising a calling endpoint.
  - A method of delaying call establishment, the method comprising:
     transmitting a call request message associated with a call to a called endpoint identifying a delay point.
- 6. The method of claim 5, the method comprising receiving a notification from the called endpoint that the delay point has been reached.
  - 7. The method of claim 5, the method comprising determining if the call is to be established.
  - 8. The method of claim 5, the method comprising notifying the called endpoint if the call is to be established.
- 9. The method of claim 5, the method comprising performing maintenance testing without notifying the called endpoint to start alerting a called user, wherein maintenance comprises at least one of the group comprised of: quality of service (QoS) testing, service level verification, probing endpoints, querying for services supported by a device, etc.
- 10. The method of claim 5, transmitting a call request message comprising transmitting asession initiation protocol INVITE message.

- 11. The method of claim 5, transmitting a call request message comprising transmitting an H.323 Setup message.
- 12. The method of claim 5, transmitting a call request message further comprising transmitting a call setup message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement.
- 13. The method of claim 5, receiving a notification from the called endpoint comprising a Delay Point Reached message.
- 14. The method of claim 5, notifying the called endpoint further comprising sending a Delayed Call Establishment Release message.
- 15. A method of delayed call establishment, the method comprising:
  receiving a call request message associated with a call indicating a need for delayed call establishment and identifying a delay point.
  - 16. The method of claim 15, the method comprising transmitting a response indicating availability of delayed call establishment; and progressing the call to the delay point.
  - 17. The method of claim 15, the method comprising notifying a calling endpoint that that delay point has been reached.
  - 18. The method of claim 15, the method comprising processing the call as indicated by the calling endpoint.
- 20 19. The method of claim 15, processing the call comprising alerting a user, of a called endpoint, of the call.
  - 20. The method of claim 15, processing the call comprising performing maintenance or other tasks without alerting the user.
  - 21. A network device, comprising:

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a port to allow the device to communicate with a calling endpoint; a processor to:

receive a call request message associated with a call from the calling endpoint; respond with a notification of delayed call establishment availability; and process the call to a delay point.

22. The network device of claim 21, the processor further to transmit a notification that a delay point has been reached

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- 23. The network device of claim 21, the processor further to determine if the call is to be established and, if the call is to be established, notify a user.
- 24. The network device of claim 21, the network device comprising a called endpoint.
- 25. The network device of claim 21, the calling endpoint comprising an intermediary.
- 26. An article of machine-readable media containing instructions that, when executed, cause the machine to:

transmit a call request message associated with a call to a called endpoint identifying a delay point.

- 27. The article of claim 26, the instructions further causing the machine to receive a notification from the called endpoint that the delay point has been reached.
- 28. The article of claim 26, the instructions further causing the machine to determine if the call is to be established.
- 29. The article of claim 26, the instructions further causing the machine to notify the called endpoint if the call is to be established.
- 30. The article of claim 26, the instructions further causing the machine to perform maintenance testing without notifying the called endpoint to start alerting a called user, wherein maintenance comprises at least one of the group comprised of: quality of service (QoS) testing, service level verification, probing endpoints, querying for services supported by a device, etc.
- 25 31. An article of machine-readable media containing instructions that, when executed, cause the machine to:

receive a call request message associated with a call indicating a need for delayed call establishment and identifying a delay point.

- 32. The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the machine to transmit a response indicating availability of delayed call establishment; and progress the call to the delay point.
- 33. The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the machine to notify a calling endpoint that that delay point has been reached.
- 34. The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the machine to process the call as indicated by the calling endpoint.
- 10 35. A network device, comprising:

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- a means for allowing the device to communicate with a called endpoint; a means for sending a call request message associated with a call to the called endpoint; and
- a means for indicating a desire to delay call establishment until a delay point is reached.
- 36. A network device, comprising:
  - a means for allowing the device to communicate with a calling endpoint;
    a means for receiving a call request message associated with a call from the calling endpoint;
- a means for responding with a notification of delayed call establishment availability; and
  - a means for processing the call to a delay point.